# Jay News

February 2023

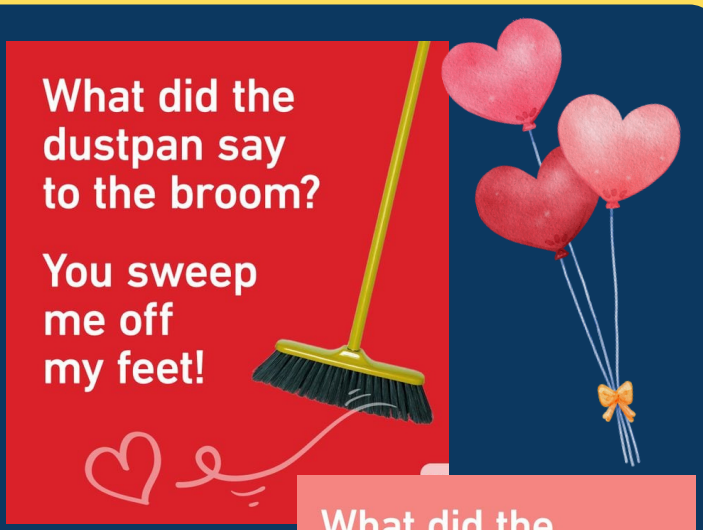
# Shepherd Public Schools

PUBLISHED BY HOLLY MOEGGENBERG SPS CENTRAL OFFICE

## Dates to Remember:

Monday, February 13th, Professional Development Day, No school for students

Friday, March 3rd, End of 2nd Trimester, Full day for staff and students



## What's inside this newsletter?

A note from the Superintendent, information from each school, important dates, future events...etc.

## Mission Statement:

To prepare all students to reach their full potential with the support of a unified community.

**Vision:** **J**ourney to **A**chieving **Y**our **S**uccess! **JAYS!**

From the whiteboard of Superintendent Starr... February 2023

The month of January we typically associate with the “throes of winter.” In mid-Michigan we experience colder temperatures, precipitation in the form of snow and ice and mostly cloudy days. Although it’s been a bit colder than normal just recently, overall we have had quite the opposite so far this winter. Let’s see what February holds in store. Here is a Jay News update from the desk of the superintendent.

FOUR MAJOR DUTIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADER- Blessings and good fortune have meant my career in education has spanned up to this point in time just less than forty years. Over the course of time, it’s crystalized what I believe a school district leader’s four key responsibilities ought to be - and the four things I strive to accomplish on a daily basis. They are:

- Work to ever-improve student achievement
- Work to constantly improve school safety
- Be the district’s best “cheerleader”
- Strive toward financial solvency (spend the same as what is coming in).

These four areas will continue to be my focus as the Shepherd Public Schools superintendent. If you would like to speak more with me about any of these or have suggestions on how I can improve you are welcome to reach out to me.

MOREY EDUCATIONAL CENTER UPDATE- Just over a year ago the exploration began. Thanks to opportunity, timing and some other directional favors, we now lean into how best to populate the facility.

If you haven’t already, you are encouraged to navigate the Morey Educational Center link at the top of our district’s webpage; Shepherd Public Schools. Although we learn more each day in terms of how best we can use this opportunity to further our mission statement of being unified, for now anyway you may be able to have some of the questions you have answered.

Thank you for your attention to this message. In all what we do, let’s remain BLUEJAY Strong!!

# SHEPHERD HIGH SCHOOL

## SENIOR INFORMATION

**Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation Scholarship**

Due March 1 Seniors -
need 5 hours of Community Service

Mock Interview Day -
March 10

Talent Portfolio Day -
April 12 and 13

Mt. Pleasant Area community foundation℠
For good. For ever.℠

**Click here to apply for a scholarship.**

## JUNIOR INFORMATION

Check out Shepherd Schools early graduation process. If your student is a junior and is interested in graduating early please check out the information under news on the website. If you have questions please reach out to Principal Gauthier.

## Upcoming Dates

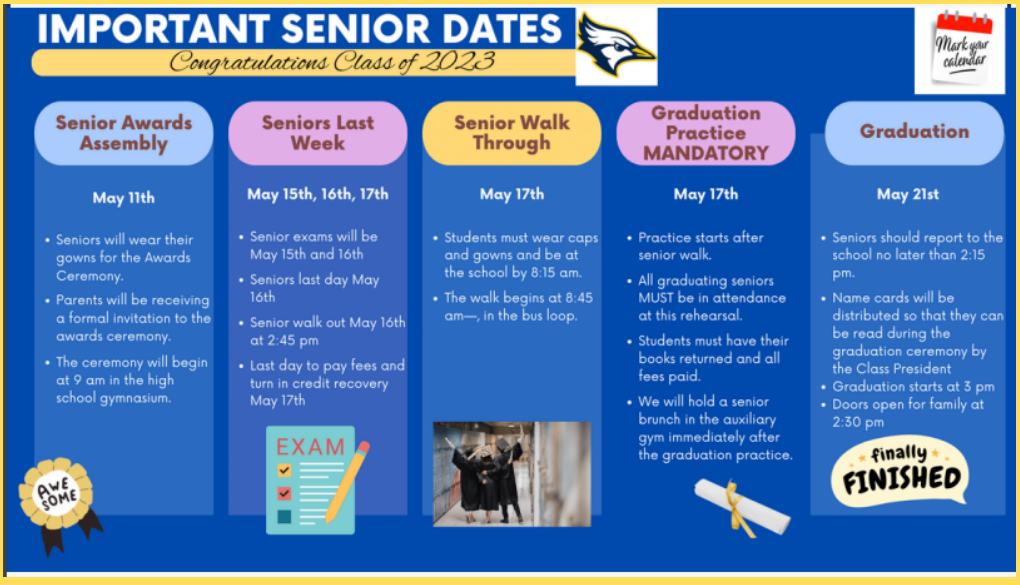
February 13 - Professional Development Day

February 17 - Lion Heart Assembly

March 10 and 11 - Seussical - The Musical

March 23 - Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences

March 24 - Morning Parent-Teacher Conferences



# SHEPHERD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Shepherd Middle Schools Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award winner for January is Lexi Clute. Lexi is pictured with SMS Principal, Mr. Wolf and Mt. Pleasant Optimist Club representative Lauren Adams. This award is given to a MS student that exemplifies what it means to be an Optimist member; which fosters an optimistic way of life through a network of others, having a positive outlook, and having an ever-expanding dedication to community service. Congratulations Lexi!!

An exciting opportunity has started to take place during half-time of the middle school basketball games called Shot For A Pop. Each shot is $1.00 and proceeds go to our middle school students, and also to improving our school hallways and common areas with updated school branding. Thank you Mrs. Allingham for getting this great event started!

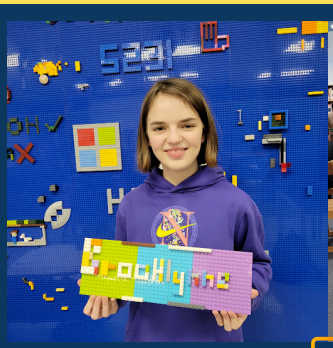
We celebrated our 2nd Trimester BlueJay Renaissance. BJR focuses on our students' ATTENDANCE, ACADEMICS, AND ATTITUDE. Each time the qualifications get a little more difficult to achieve. Qualifications were as follows:

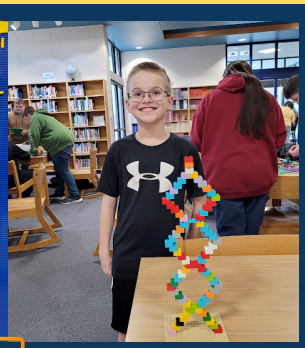
Attendance
Gold: 3 or less tardies
Blue: 4 or less tardies

Academics
Gold: 85% or better in all classes
Blue: 70% or better in all classes

Attitude
Gold: no suspensions and no lunch detentions Blue: no suspensions and < 2 lunch detentions

Shepherd Middle School's Lego Club began in the month of January. This club meets on Tuesday after school. Mrs. Allingham is the advisor of this club and you can tell by all the smiles our students are loving this opportunity.





# Shepherd Elementary

Thanks to our PTO for Hot Chocolate and a packed house for movie night last month.

Our schoolwide theme is problem solving. In our morning announcements and school assembly we are reminding students to use the Second Step Problem-Solving Steps:

S: Say the problem
T: Think of solutions
E: Explore consequences
P: Pick the best solution

As you can see, the first letter of each step spells the word ”step.” Remembering “step” helps students solve problems with each other in safe and respectful ways.

Second Step lessons specifically teach students to use each step and reinforce the message that solutions need to be safe and respectful.

The PTO is holding the Boys Bash (Formerly Mother-Son activity night) on February 24 at 7PM.

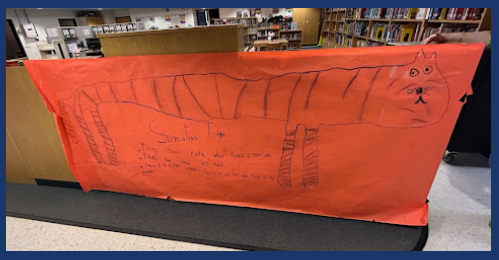
Next coffee with the principal will be March 3 at 8:30 AM. Follow our Facebook page for details.

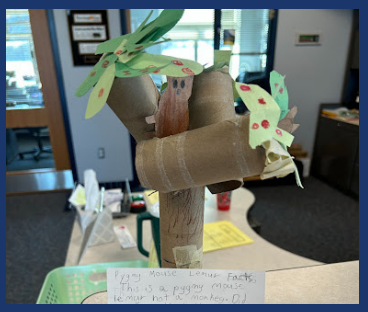
Kindergarten Registration Night is March 16 at 6PM in the HS auditorium.

# Winn Elementary

## Animal Museum at Winn

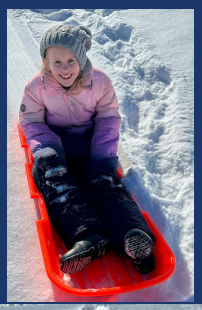
Have you ever wondered how long a whale is or how tall a moose is? Mrs. Verhaar's class created a full-size museum of different animals throughout our school! This project integrates the student's knowledge of; reading, writing, math, and art! The students worked as a team to research their animal and then create a full-size version to display here at Winn. Next to their animal, the students wrote up a little information card to place next to their creation. Thank you to Mrs. Verhaars's class for creating this wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn more and get face-to-face with some pretty cool animals!





## Recess Fun at Winn!

Well, we have been waiting and it finally happened. Our snow hill is open for business! Thanks to our Winn Parents Club for purchasing all of our winter toys. The kids love to shovel snow and use our new toboggans. What a great way to get in some exercise and have a ton of fun!



## Whole School PBIS Celebration

This past month, the students at Winn have been studying emotional management. We learned that everyone has strong emotions that we can have at school and at home. Sometimes, these strong emotions can make us "flip our lid." When this happens, our brain has a hard time thinking. We can help our brain stay calm by using strategies.

1. STOP - We all have a stop signal we can use when we feel a strong emotion
2. NAME THE FEELING - Next, we tell ourselves what feeling we are having
3. CALM DOWN- We can breathe, count, or use positive self-talk to calm ourselves. This is called self-regulation.

To honor all the hard work that the kids have done, each teacher hosted a special event in their classroom that students signed up for. We had 10 different activities that our K-5 students could choose from. We built airplanes, danced, played games, learned how to draw, decorated cookies, made heart critters, and discovered why snow was white! Ask your kids what they learned about how to stay calm when they have a big emotion. You can use these same strategies at home too!

# KENDALL STRONG

**Who:** Shepherd Public School District- Let's get all buildings showing our support

**What:** Orange Out- Orange is the ribbon color for leukemia

**Where:** At Your School Building

**When:** Friday, February 10

**How:** Wear Any Orange You Can

**Why:** One of our SMS students was recently diagnosed with leukemia. We want to show Kendall our support in her fight by wearing orange.

**Donations will be accepted at the Shepherd Middle School Office, also to show our support. Any money raised will be donated to Kendall LaLone and her family.**